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JUNK DEALING AND JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago recently made a study of the relationship of juvenile delinquency to the sale of junk. Careful case studies were made of one hundred delinquent boys who had been committed by the Juvenile Court to a correctional institution. It was found that eighty-eight of the one hundred boys made it a practice to collect and sell junk. Sixty-seven per cent (67%) of the boys admitted securing their salvage from sources which necessitated stealing in order to get it. There is not the slightest possibility of doubt that "junking" is an important and unnecessary cause of juvenile delinquency in Chicago and also in a large majority of other American cities. Correspondence with many of these cities is quoted in the report. All but four of these cities state that junking is a serious cause of delinquency. Boston, Norfolk, Seattle and San Francisco do not. The report does not show why it is not a contributing cause in Norfolk and Seattle, but it does indicate that it is a minor cause in Boston and San Francisco because the police of those two cities enforce the laws and ordinances relating to sale of junk. If the police in the other cities were more vigilant, there is no doubt that this problem would be made much less serious.

The Juvenile Protective Association believes that the junk business will always be a menace to the welfare of city children as long as it is in the hands of private people, and therefore the "municipalization" of the junk business is recommended. This is not a suggestion made out of the imaginations of the writers of the report, for it has been tried in various cities and found worth while. This recommendation is printed in full on page 304 of this issue of the Journal.

JOEL DuBOIS HUNTER.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE

The World War long ago reached the JOURNAL OF CRIMINAL LAW AND CRIMINOLOGY. Like many another institution it had to brace itself against the shock. Prior to 1914 the JOURNAL was self-supporting from regular annual subscriptions, but shortly after the outbreak of the war European subscribers began to disappear from our lists and it was not long until we had lost practically all of our support from that source. This represents a falling off of upwards of 200 subscribers. Upon the entry of the United States into the conflict we lost